

State of Montana Benefits

The State of Montana has the following benefits available to honorably discharged veterans.

- Burial Assistance: Other than dishonorably discharged Montana veterans and their spouses are eligible for burial in the three (3) State Veterans Cemeteries. A payment up to the amount of \$250 may be made by the county in which the veteran was a resident at the time of death. The County Commissioners make the determination as to residency. This can be paid to any such resident veteran who dies when he is temporarily absent from the State of Montana on account of illness, on temporary employment or vacationing. If any veteran leaves Montana to reside or is residing elsewhere at the time of death, the individual is not eligible for the burial benefit. The county residence may provide \$70 toward the mounting of a government grave marker.
- Discharge Records: Free recording and copies made of discharge papers. Contact your local Clerk & Recorder's Office for further details.
- Educational Assistance: Tuition waivers are provided at the units of the University of Montana system. This is available to veterans no longer eligible for VA educational benefits and who are Montana residents. Tuition waivers are provided at the units of the University of Montana system for orphans or children of veterans who died in service, or died of service-incurred disabilities. The period of eligibility begins on the child's 18th birthday. If this person serves on active duty in the armed forces between his/her 18th birthdays, then the period of eligibility is extended to five (5) years after his/her first discharge or release from such active duty. In no event can the period of eligibility be extended beyond the 31st birthday.
- Hunting/Fishing Discount: Montana veterans with a disability of 70% or higher may be eligible for a discount on hunting and fishing licenses. Please contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) Department at (406) 444-2535 for further information and assistance. The FWP also offers Montana residents a conservation license for a minimal fee, which includes fishing and reduced prices on deer and elk licenses.
- License Plates: Montana veterans or the surviving spouse of a veteran receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) are eligible for two (2) free automobile special veteran license plates and a waiver of all motor vehicle registration fees. The veteran, or the surviving spouse of a veteran receiving DIC must meet one of the following criteria: (1) the veteran was a prisoner of war, (2) the veteran is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the VA, (3) the veteran is determined to be 50% or more disabled and has been awarded the purple heart, (4) the veteran was killed while on active duty, or (5) the veteran died of a service-connected injury or disability. The veteran or the veteran's spouse must be in receipt of a VA tax letter in order to qualify for this benefit.
- Real Property Tax Reduction: Real property tax can be reduced, per a percentage figure based on income, for either an honorably discharged veteran currently rated as 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate or surviving spouse of a veteran in receipt of DIC. The veteran or the veteran's spouse must be in receipt of a VA tax letter in order to qualify for this benefit. Please contact your county assessor's office for further details.
- State Veteran's Homes: Honorably discharged veterans, who are Montana residents, are eligible to apply for admission to Montana Veterans Homes. Spouses and surviving spouses of honorably discharged Montana veterans are also eligible to apply. A 22-bed domiciliary, 90-bed nursing home, and 15-bed special care is located in Columbia Falls, MT; an 80-bed skilled/Intermediate skilled nursing home facility, with 10 of the 80 beds reserved for special care residents is located in Glendive, MT.